

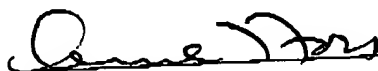
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003

Favourable consideration is earnestly solicited and, if any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned agent for the applicant at 416-862-5739.

Respectfully submitted

COTTON, Bill et al.



Arne I. Fors

Registration No. 20,775

AIF:MWS:pg

Enclosures

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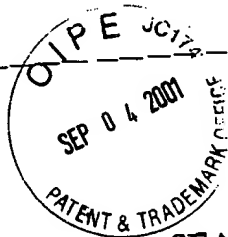
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SCHEDULE "A"

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**SEALING MEANS FOR ELECTRICALLY DRIVEN WATER
PURIFICATION UNITS**

5 **Related Applications**

This application is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 09/327,598 filed June 8, 1999, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,235,166, and also claims the benefit of PCT/CA00/00687 filed June 8, 2000.

10 **Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to electrically driven water purification devices and, in particular, to novel sealing means to facilitate sealing of such devices.

Description of the Related Art

15 Water purification devices of the filter press type which purify water by electrically driven processes, such as electrodialysis or electrodeionization, comprise individual chambers bounded by ion exchange membranes. Typically, each of the chambers is defined on one side by a membrane disposed to the preferential permeation of dissolved cation species (cation exchange membrane) and on an opposite side by a membrane disposed to the preferential permeation of
20 dissolved anion species (anion exchange membrane).

Water to be purified enters one chamber commonly referred to as a diluting chamber. By passing a current through the device, electrically charged species in the diluting chamber migrate towards and through the ion exchange membranes into adjacent chambers commonly known as concentrating chambers. As a result of these mechanisms, water exiting the diluting chamber is
25 substantially demineralized. Electrically charged species which permeate through the ion exchange membranes and into a concentrating chamber are flushed from the concentrating chamber by a separate aqueous stream flowing through the concentrating chamber.

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SCHEDULE "B"

Q



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